

Message Text

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62
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SIL-01

LAB-04 /074 W
----- 051989

R 041631Z OCT 76
FM AMCONSUL BELFAST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1446
INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 349

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, UK, EI
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL UNIONISTS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1. ANNUAL CONFERENCE OFFICIAL UNIONIST PARTY OCTOBER
2 AND 3 AT PORTRUSH PRODUCED SEVERAL INTERESTING
DEVELOPMENTS: IN ADDITION TO SEVERE ATTACK ON DIRECT RULE
BY LEADER HARRY WEST, CONFERENCE SAW INITIATIVES BY
CONSERVATIVE PARTY THAT COULD BE PRELUDE TO BID FOR RETURN
OF UNIONIST/CONSERVATIVE ALLIANCE AT PARLIAMENT. ONE OFFICIAL
UNIONIST AT CONFERENCE CALLED FOR END TO UNITED ULSTER
UNIONIST COALITION (UUUC), I.E. AN END TO ASSOCIATION WITH
REVEREND IAN PAISLEY.

2. MR. WEST REFERRED TO "BONDAGE" OF ULSTER PEOPLE TO
"IMPOSED MISMANAGEMENT OF THEIR MOST PRESSING CONCERNs."
THIS MISMANAGEMENT, FOR MR. WEST, INCLUDED ECONOMIC,
POLITICAL AND SECURITY SPHERES. HE CALLED FOR SPEEDY
RESTORATION OF AN ULSTER GOVERNMENT AS THE PREREQUISITE
FOR PEACE AND TRANQUILITY. HE PAID COMPLIMENT TO PEACE MOVEMENT
SAYING ".... SUCH LINKS AS EXISTED BETWEEN THE IRA AND A
SECTION OF THE POPULATION HAVE BEEN DIMINISHED." MR. WEST
EVEN ADDED HIS VOICE TO THOSE WHO ARE AGAIN TALKING ABOUT AN
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"ULSTER IDENTITY", WITH THE PREDICTION THAT "...THE

PRESSURES OF DISASTER THAT SPRING FROM THESE YEARS OF MISRULE ARE LIKELY TO UNITE OUR ULSTER PEOPLE AS PERHAPS WE HAVE NEVER BEEN UNITED BEFORE."

3. MR. EDWARD DU CANN, CHAIRMAN OF CONSERVATIVE 1922 COMMITTEE AT WESTMINSTER, REAFFIRMED PARLIAMENT WISH THAT A BI-PARTISAN POLICY BE MAINTAINED ON NORTHERN IRELAND POLITICAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS. HE CALLED FOR A GOVERNMENT STRATEGY TO DEFEAT TERRORISM. "IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO CONTAIN TERRORISM, TERRORISM IN ALL ITS FORMS MUST BE DESTROYED." HE SUGGESTED INTEREST IN EXPLORING THE SETTING-UP OF A LOCAL ADVISORY BODY BEFORE A DEVOLVED PARLIAMENT WAS REVIVED. CONSERVATIVE CONFERENCE BRIGHTON HAS SCHEDULED DEBATE ON NORTHERN IRELAND FOR OCTOBER 5 AND MR. WEST AND ABOUT A DOZEN OTHER UNIONISTS WILL ATTEND. ONE ISSUE OF COMMON INTEREST TO CONSERVATIVES, UNIONISTS AND OTHERS IS THAT OF INCREASED REPRESENTATION AT WESTMINSTER FOR NORTHERN IRELAND. LABOUR PARTY AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY ARE LESS THAN ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT INCREASE IN NUMBER OF ULSTER SEATS.

4. ONE DELEGATE TO CONFERENCE, THE FORMER MAYOR OF CRAIGAVON, IN DEBATE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ASSERTED THAT THOSE LOST TO UNIONIST PARTY OVER YEARS WOULD NOT RETURN SO LONG AS DEMOCRATIC UNIONISTS (PAISLEYITE) WERE CONNECTED THROUGH THE UUUC. YOUNG UNIONIST LEADERS EARLIER URGED THAT CANDIDATES CONTEST NEXT ELECTIONS AS OFFICIAL UNIONISTS RATHER THAN COALITION CANDIDATES. CONGEN NOTES ISSUE OF WHICH BRANCH OF COALITION WILL PRESENT CANDIDATES IN CERTAIN CONSTITUENCIES IS LIKELY TO BE CRUCIAL IN SURVIVAL OR DEMISE OF COALITION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL PARTIES, PARTY MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 OCT 1976
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BELFAS00349
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760374-0570
From: BELFAST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761087/aaaacxje.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 APR 2004 by DuboseBM>; APPROVED <05 JAN 2005 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OFFICIAL UNIONISTS ANNUAL CONFERENCE
TAGS: PINT, UK, EI, (WEST, HARRY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006